

What is the Flying Hands Competition?

Originating in 2006, the Washington School for the Deaf Flying Hands Competition is an American Sign Language (ASL) Poetry contest for NW Oregon and SW Washington students. It is designed to encourage the study and practice of ASL and its literary forms. ASL poetry is the format in which to instill study and pride in Deaf culture and the ASL Arts.

Who Can Participate?

Deaf and hard-of-hearing students from pre-school to 21 years of age (or until high school graduation) from SW Washington and NW Oregon are welcome to participate in the Flying Hands ASL Poetry competition.

Family, friends, peers, students of ASL or the Interpreter Training Program are invited to observe and support the contestants. The event is open to the public.

Poetry Criteria

Criteria for all categories include:

- Three 3-minute time limit
- Structure for the specific age-group
- Props or costumes are NOT allowed
- Dress Code must be followed (see following page)
- Original work only
- Poems must follow categories listed
- Contestants may compete individually and/or in a group or team
- Limit 2 poems per person (for example, may compete individually and in a team or in 2 teams)

Expectations

- Contestants must register 1-month in advance
- No late registrations will be accepted
- Contestants are to check in at the Lloyd Auditorium foyer 15 minutes before the competition begins. (12:15 p.m.)
- Each contestant will have three (3) minutes to present his or her poem
- Time is monitored and contestants will lose points for poetry over time
- Poems may be under three (3) minutes

Procedure

- A moderator will greet the audience and announce the competition category
- The moderator will introduce each poet contestant
- The contestant will take the stage. He or she will greet the audience; introduce his or her name and the title of the poem.
- When signaled by the moderator, the poet will begin his or her presentation.
- When the presentation is complete the moderator will thank the poet contestant. The contestant will thank the audience and resume to his or her seat.
- Judges will have 60 seconds between poet contestants to fill-out the ballots

- The moderator will then call the next poet contestant and repeat the process until all the contestants in that category have finished.
- At the end of each category the judges' ballots will be collected and scores will be counted.
- The competition will culminate with an awards ceremony. All contestants receive a medal of participation or a place medal.

Dress Code

Poetry contestants are to wear black or dark blue slacks or skirts and a black or dark blue long or short sleeve shirt. No sleeveless shirts or tank-tops are permitted. Contestants are expected to be neat and clean. Hair should be away from the face. No props are allowed. Neat t-shirts are permissible.

Categories

- The poem uses rhyme, repetition, and handshapes to share an experience, tell a story or by thematic approach.
- A-B-C- The poem storyline follows the alphabet A-Z
- Numbers- The poem storyline uses number handshapes 0-9
- Handshapes-Specific handshapes are used. Handshapes include A,B,C,O,S,1,5
- Word Poetry-The poem spells a word of the subject e.g. Valli's "Flash"
- Personification-The poem reflects the personality of the subject e.g. Valli's "Mushroom"
- 1 or 2 Pattern Repeat-The poem uses only 1 handshape or alternates between 2 handshapes
- 2-Subject-The poem is performed from 2 perspectives, e.g. a horse's perspective and the rider's perspective.
- Emotion or Subject- Any topic or theme to create the poem, or a poem about a feeling or emotion
- Deaf Experience-A poem related to a specific deaf experience

ASL Poetry Resources

Videos:

ASL Poetry by Clayton Valli- This is the definitive works of the late ASL poet, Clayton Valli. Each poem is followed by an explanation of its structure. Excellent resource for learning and teaching ASL Poetry Available at DawnSign Press: **ISBN:** 0-915035-24-3

The Treasure by Ella Mae Lentz- Original Poetry by Deaf artist Ella Mae Lentz created specifically for teaching and learning ASL. Available at DawnSign Press.
ISBN: 0-915035-96-0

Washington School for the Deaf Flying Hands

ASL Poetry Categories 2007

Age Categories	Type of Poetry (choose 1 or more of the following types of poetry)	Poetry Descriptions
Pre-kindergarten & Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A-B-C Poem or • Numbers (0-9) The poems have a theme tells a story	A-B-C Poem storyline follows alphabet A-Z Numbers Poem storyline follows number order 0-9 Hand shapes Handshapes include A, 5,
First Grade Second Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 handshapes only • Numbers 1-5 only • A-B-C Poem • All Poems have a theme or tells a story 	Word Poem Spelling of a word tells a story e.g. "GOLF" or "FLASH" Personification An object takes on a personality e.g. MUSHROOM by Clayton Valli
Third Grade Fourth Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word Poem • 2-Handshapes only • All Poems have a theme or tells a story 	1 or 2 pattern repeat The poem storyline uses only 1 hand shape or alternates between 2 hand shapes Emotion or Subject: Any topic or theme the student would like to create a poem about or a poem about a feeling or emotion
Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or 2-Handshape Pattern • Personification • Deaf Experience Poem • All poems have a theme or tells a story 	Deaf Experience A poem story line related to a specific deaf experience 2-subject- The poem is performed from 2 perspectives for example, a horse's perspective and a rider's perspective
High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or 2 pattern repeat • Personification • Emotion or Subject • 2-subject • Deaf Experience 	

Internet Resources

Comprehensive resource on ASL Poetry history and structure

<http://www.dawnsign.com/support/aslpoetry.html>

Slope Magazine Special ASL Edition

www.slope.org/asl/

Captioned Media Program has several ASL video tapes to rent and/or view- free for schools and other programs

www.captionedmedia.org

Contact Information

Kelly Perez

Phone (voice) 360.696.6525 x4362

Email: kelly.perez@wsd.wa.gov

Nikki Ekle

Email only: nikki.ekle@wsd.wa.gov

Mailing Address

Flying Hands Competition

Washington School for the Deaf

611 Grand Blvd.

Vancouver, WA 98661

FLYING HANDS ASL POETRY COMPETITION

Teacher Registration Form

Registration forms must be received by May 1, 2007.

Teacher name _____

Teacher email _____

Name of school (print) _____

School address (print) _____

School phone (voice or tty) () _____

How many students are you registering? _____

List each student, the student's age, type of poetry, list individual or group, and the poem title.
Limit is 2 poems per participant.

Student Name	Age	Type of Poem	Individual or Group	Title

Washington School for the Deaf
611 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661

FLYING HANDS ASL POETRY COMPETITION

Student Registration Form

This sheet must accompany the Teacher Registration Form

School Name _____

Teacher _____

Student Name _____

Student Address _____

Grade Level _____

Poem Title _____

Poem Category _____

Circle one: Group or Individual

Group Poem Participant Names:

Submit forms to:

Flying Hands ASL Poetry Competition
Washington School for the Deaf
611 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661